

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

120934Z Jul 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 002609

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/10/2015

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [SP](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN'S VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE JULY 18-19 FOREIGN
MINISTERS MEETING (GAERC)

REF: SECSTATE 124856

Classified By: Political Officer Ricardo Zuniga for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Per reftel instructions, poloff discussed Turkey, the UN High-Level Event on Millennium Review, Syria, Iran and Uzbekistan with Carlos Fernandez-Arias, MFA EU Policy Coordinator (and Special Assistant to MFA Political Director Dezcollar) on July 11.

Turkey

¶2. (C) Fernandez-Arias said Spain has always been a supporter of Turkey's accession to the European Union, and that has not changed. Spain plans to support the current schedule for EU accession talks with Turkey to begin on October 3. Fernandez-Arias then added that Spain recognizes that there may be shifts in the EU consensus on this issue, particularly with the upcoming German elections, and it will re-evaluate its position to take into account that consensus.

UN High-Level Event

¶3. (SBU) Fernandez-Arias said that Spain was in complete agreement on goals for the UN High-Level Event on Millennium Review. He affirmed Spain's belief that the Monterrey Consensus was about partnership between rich and poor countries, working together for development goals. Spain supports the United States' belief in the importance of democratic and economic reform and institution building, processes which take time but bring long-term benefits to the developing world.

¶4. (SBU) Spain also agrees on the need to move forward on areas of UN reform where there is broad consensus, and Fernandez-Arias communicated that Spain would not support holding up other areas of reform to while negotiating changes to the UN Security Council, which will likely take time.

Syria and Lebanon

¶5. (C) Fernandez-Arias said Spain was in agreement with the need to support the new Lebanese government, and understands as well the need to be strict with Syria. Nonetheless, Spain feels that there needs to be "political breathing room" for Syria, to give opposition forces the chance to maneuver. The Spanish believe that even if the EU does not move forward immediately on its Association Agreement with Syria, it should not take the agreement off the table entirely, which would merely leave Syria on the defensive, and would not in any event deter the Syrian security services, for whom the agreement is not important. Given the changes and reforms going on all around Syria, Spain thinks it best to show its support for positive movements in Lebanon, Iraq and the Palestinian Authority, thereby showing Syria the best way forward.

Iran

¶6. (C) Fernandez-Arias expressed Spain's appreciation for US support of the EU-3, and said Spain agrees that the EU should continue to be firm with Iran about its nuclear commitments, and should report Iran to the UN Security Council in case of any breach of the Paris Agreement. He said that Spain also thinks the USG's allowing Iran to enter into negotiations to join the WTO was a helpful gesture that will pay off.

¶7. (C) Fernandez-Arias admitted that there is much trepidation in the Spanish MFA following the Iranian elections, and agreed that there were certainly flaws in the election process.

Uzbekistan

¶8. (C) Fernandez-Arias said Spain agrees with reftel points on Uzbekistan, and stated that in light of the passing of the June 30 deadline, the EU already has concrete measures

planned: an arms embargo and visa restrictions. As far as Spain knows, those plans are not being moderated. The Spanish are concerned because they use an Uzbek military base for their operations in Afghanistan, but if necessary, he said the GOS would seek other options in the region.

AGUIRRE